

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steven Grossman on 06/03/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **Amendment to claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently amended) Cable-routing device comprising links that are open at the ends, joined together in pivoting fashion and can be angled relative to each other in at least two directions, said links being arranged one behind the other in the longitudinal direction of the cable-routing device and forming at least one guide channel by means of guide elements located radially outwards, where tensile force-absorbing pivoting joints are located between links joined together in pivoting fashion within the cable-routing device and the links each display corresponding joint elements, characterized in that at least one of said pivoting joint joints is designed in such a way that, in order to form and/or disconnect the pivoting joint, the respective links and/or joint elements to be joined to one another and/or disconnected from one another can be joined and/or separated in a direction that differs from the longitudinal axis of the cable-routing device,

further characterized in that the direction for connecting the links and/or the joint elements to form the pivoting joint and/or for disconnecting the pivoting joint encloses an angle of 45° to 135° with the longitudinal axis of the cable-routing device to absorb said tensile force.

**Amendment to Abstract:**

The invention relates to a cable-routing device ~~comprising~~ including links that are open at the ends, joined together in pivoting fashion and can be angled relative to each other in at least two directions, said links being arranged one behind the other in the longitudinal direction of the cable-routing device and forming at least one guide channel by means of guide elements located radially outwards, where tensile force-absorbing pivoting joints are located between links joined together in pivoting fashion within the cable-routing device and the links each display corresponding joint elements. In order to provide a cable-routing device that is capable of absorbing high tensile forces and/or thrust, especially in the longitudinal direction, and whose assembly and/or disassembly is facilitated, at least one pivoting joint (6, 7) is designed in such a way that, in order to form and/or disconnect the pivoting joint, the respective links (2) and/or joint elements to be joined to one another and/or disconnected from one another can be joined and/or separated in a direction (8) that encloses an angle relative to the longitudinal axis (9) of the cable-routing device. (fig. 2)

**Amendment to Specification:**

Insert before line 8 on page 1

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF INVENTION

Insert before line 22 on page 1

DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

Insert before line 15 on page 2

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Insert before line 7 on page 11

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Insert before line 33 on page 11

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach or suggest (in combination with the other claim limitations) a cable-routing device comprising: the direction for connecting the links and/or the joint elements to form the pivoting joint and/or for disconnecting the pivoting joint encloses an angle of 45° to 135° with the longitudinal axis of the cable-routing device to absorb said tensile force (claims 1-2 & 4-18).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Communication***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID M. SINCLAIR whose telephone number is (571)270-5068. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs. 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2831

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. M. S./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2831

/DHIRU R PATEL/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2831